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New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 56th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. BURKE (Ireland)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.20 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 12: REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (continued)

Draft resolution on prevention and control of acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) (A/C.2/46/L.33/Rev.1)

1. Mr. BARAC (Romania), Vice-Chairman, said that informal consultations on the draft resolution had led to agreement and he therefore recommended that the Committee should adopt the text by consensus after making certain revisions. The seventh preambular paragraph should read: "Recognizing that discriminatory measures related to, inter alia, quarantine, mandatory testing and coercive and/or restrictive policies dealing with travel and freedom of movement, including transfrontier movement, more often drive the disease underground where it is more difficult to combat, but do not stop the spread," and operative paragraph 9 should read: "Also requests the Secretary-General to invite the Director-General of the World Health Organization, in close collaboration with all other appropriate bodies, organs and programmes of the United Nations system, to report through the Secretary-General to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session through the Economic and Social Council on the implementation of the present resolution, taking into account the health aspects and other dimensions of the pandemic."

2. He said that Bulgaria, Canada, Suriname, the United States of America and Zaire had joined the sponsors of the draft resolution.

3. Draft resolution A/C.2/46/L.33/Rev.1, as revised, was adopted.

4. Mr. KPAKPO (Benin) said that Benin wished to join the sponsors of the draft resolution which had just been adopted.

5. Mr. HASHIM (Malaysia) said that his delegation had joined the consensus but wished to put on record its reservations concerning the seventh preambular paragraph. While it could be argued that the measures mentioned in that paragraph might drive the disease underground, in Malaysia, where the pandemic was still at the preliminary stage, experience showed that quarantine and mandatory testing were effective measures in combating the spread of HIV infection, particularly among drug abusers. Those measures also indirectly helped to increase public awareness of the dangers of AIDS.

6. Mr. STOBY (Secretary of the Committee) pointed out that a country could not join the sponsors of a resolution once it had been adopted. Efforts would be made, however, to ensure that Benin's intention was recorded in the Second Committee's report to the General Assembly.

Draft decision on the Second Transport and Communications Decade in Africa (A/C.2/46/L.62)

7. Mr. ZIARAN (Islamic Republic of Iran), Vice-Chairman, said that informal consultations on the draft decision had led to agreement and he therefore recommended that the Committee should adopt the text by consensus after making certain modifications. Paragraph (a) should read as follows: "Endorses Economic and Social Council resolution 1991/83 of 26 July 1991 on the Second Transport and Communications Decade in Africa, in particular, operative paragraph 4 of that resolution" and paragraph (b) should be deleted.

8. Draft decision A/C.2/46/L.62, as revised, was adopted.

AGENDA ITEM 77: DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION (continued)

(a) TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT (continued)

Draft resolution entitled "Specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of land-locked developing countries" (A/C.2/46/L.57)

9. The CHAIRMAN said that the Central African Republic had joined the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.2/46/L.57 on specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of land-locked developing countries.

10. Mr. JOUNA (Niger) said that Niger also wished to join the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.2/46/L.57.

(d) ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES (continued)

Draft resolutions entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and the Southern African Development Coordination Conference" contained in documents A/C.2/46/L.32 and A/C.2/46/L.93

11. Mr. BARAC (Romania), Vice-Chairman, introduced draft resolution A/C.2/46/L.93, prepared on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/46/L.32, and recommended its consensus adoption by the Committee.

12. He said that Burkina Faso, Canada, Denmark, Norway, Sweden and Uganda had joined the sponsors of the draft.

13. Draft resolution A/C.2/46/L.93 was adopted.

14. Draft resolution A/C.2/46/L.32 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

(e) ENVIRONMENT (continued)

Draft resolution on large-scale pelagic drift-net fishing and its impact on the living marine resources of the world's oceans and seas (A/C.2/46/L.7/Rev.2)

15. Mr. BARAC (Romania), Vice-Chairman, said that informal consultations on the draft resolution had led to agreement and that he was therefore able to recommend the consensus adoption of the text by the Committee.

16. Mr. McGANN (United States of America) said that Cape Verde and Zambia had joined the sponsors of the draft resolution.

17. Mr. McDONALD (Ireland), speaking on behalf of the member States of the European Community, said that the Community had recently decided to cease large-scale pelagic drift-net fishing, both in the territorial waters of the member States and on the high seas, as from 1 June 1992. The maximum permitted length of net was to be 2.5 km. An exception had been made until 1993 for vessels that had been drift-netting for the past two years in a limited section of the North-East Atlantic, whose drift-nets could be up to 5 km long provided they were suspended two metres below the surface. The measures decided upon could not be rescinded unless it was scientifically demonstrated that no environmental risk was involved.

18. Draft resolution A/C.2/46/L.7/Rev.2 was adopted.

19. Mr. WU Hailong (China) said that his delegation had supported the draft resolution, as it had resolutions 44/225 and 45/197. His Government had at all times been committed to the protection of marine resources and intended to abide by the provisions of the draft resolution just adopted.

20. Mr. TANLAY (Turkey) said that the fact of his delegation's joining the consensus did not imply any change in its position with regard to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea referred to in the third preambular paragraph, a Convention of which Turkey was not a signatory.

21. Draft resolution A/C.2/46/L.9 was withdrawn by its sponsor.

(f) DESERTIFICATION AND DROUGHT (continued)

Draft resolution on combating desertification and drought (A/C.2/46/L.81)

22. The CHAIRMAN said that the Central African Republic had joined the sponsors of the draft resolution entitled "Combating desertification and drought" (A/C.2/46/L.81).

AGENDA ITEM 82: OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT (continued)

Draft decision on operational activities for development (A/C.2/46/L.67)

23. Mr. BARAC (Romania), Vice-Chairman, said that the informal consultations on the draft decision had resulted in agreement and he was therefore in a position to recommend that the Committee should adopt the text of the draft decision by consensus after revising it to read as follows: "The General Assembly requests the Economic and Social Council at its organizational session for 1992 to consider among various proposals for themes for the coordination segment of its regular session in 1992 a theme entitled 'Technical cooperation among developing countries as a modality in the formulation, preparation, execution and evaluation of the projects implemented by the organs, organizations, bodies, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system in the economic, social and related fields'".

24. Draft decision A/C.2/46/L.67, as orally revised, was adopted.

Draft decisions on strengthening of the work of the United Nations in the field of operational activities (A/C.2/46/L.70 and Corr.1 and A/C.2/46/L.103)

25. Mr. BARAC (Romania), Vice-Chairman, introduced draft decision A/C.2/46/L.103, submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft decision A/C.2/46/L.70 and Corr.1. He recommended that the Committee should adopt the draft decision by consensus after revising subparagraph (a) to read as follows: "To request the Economic and Social Council, at its organizational session for 1992, to consider that the question of strengthening the operational activities of the United Nations system be discussed by the Council at its regular session of 1992, taking into account in that regard the recommendations of the twenty-sixth series of Joint Meetings of the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Administrative Committee on Coordination" and the beginning of subparagraph (b) to read as follows: "To request the Secretary-General to submit to the Economic and Social Council, at its regular session of 1992, an analytical report on strengthening the operational activities of the United Nations system, including the governance and financing aspects thereof and drawing upon relevant studies", the rest of the paragraph remaining without change.

26. Draft decision A/C.2/46/L.103, as orally revised, was adopted.

27. Draft decision A/C.2/46/L.70 and Corr.1 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

Draft resolution on celebration of World Food Day (A/C.2/46/L.47)

28. Mr. OUTLULE (Botswana) wished to place on record that his country was withdrawing from the list of sponsors of the draft resolution on the celebration of World Food Day (A/C.2/46/L.47).

AGENDA ITEM 84: SPECIAL ECONOMIC AND DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE (continued)

(b) SPECIAL PROGRAMMES OF ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE (continued)

Draft resolution on emergency assistance to Yemen (A/C.2/46/L.94/Rev.1)

29. Mr. ZIARAN (Islamic Republic of Iran), Vice-Chairman, said that following informal consultations it had been agreed, in view of the urgency of the situation, to recommend that the Committee should adopt the draft resolution by consensus.

30. Draft resolution A/C.2/46/L.94/Rev.1 was adopted.

31. Mr. MISSARY (Yemen) thanked the Committee for the assistance extended to his country.

32. The Committee thus concluded the consideration of agenda item 84.

AGENDA ITEM 88: HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT (continued)

Developing human resources for development (A/C.2/46/L.54 and A/C.2/46/L.99)

33. Mr. BARAC (Romania), Vice-Chairman, introduced draft resolution A/C.2/46/L.99, submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/46/L.54 and recommended that the Committee should adopt it by consensus.

34. Draft resolution A/C.2/46/L.99 was adopted.

35. Draft resolution A/C.2/46/L.54 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

36. The Committee thus concluded the consideration of agenda item 88.

The meeting rose at 11.15 a.m.